IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the following paragraph of the specification. Applicant includes herewith an Attachment for Specification Amendments showing a marked up version of each replacement paragraph.

Page 2, paragraph 3, continued as first paragraph on page 3:

Additionally, in many cases, the signalling system employs optical signalling instead of, or in addition to, electronic signalling. Nevertheless, such switching systems often still employ circuit switching, a technique which yields highly reliable service, particularly for such "real time" communications applications as voice, in which the momentary loss of a channel is annoying and repeated such losses are unacceptable. Switching systems may interconnect telephone instruments through circuit switching, employing time division multiplexing (TDM), for example. The switching system may carry digitized telecommunications signal over optical paths that are in conformity with synchronous optical network (SONET) standards. Such networks include network elements such as SONET network elements, SDH network elements, or wavelength division multiplexed network elements, for example. Circuit switching network elements include any ~~netwoek~~ network elements which ~~conforms~~ conform with SONET/SDH signal formats. The signal formats are described, for example, in a Technical Advisory entitled "Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) Transport Systems: Common Generic Criteria," TA-NWT-000253, Bell Communications Research, Issue 6, September 1990, which is hereby incorporated by reference. For a variety of reasons it may be important

to know which port in a given network element (NE) within such a system is connected to a particular port of another NE within the system.